



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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Approved by Dominic Laporte

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## **SCENARIO NOTE FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER**

### **DEPUTY MINISTER'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING ON PLASTICS**

#### **Date and Location of Meeting**

November 16, 2018, from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM, at 90 Sparks Street, 809-3.

#### **Attendees**

Catrina Tapely (PCO), Dr. Stephen Lucas (ECCC), Catherine Blewett (DFO), Tom Rosser (AAFC), Ian Shugart and Diane Jacovella (GAC), Kelly Gillis (IC), John Knubley (ISED), Christyne Tremblay (NRCan), Alfred LeBlanc (NSERC), Michael Vandergrift (PSPC), Erin O'Gorman (TBS).

#### **Purpose**

PCO is holding this meeting to update members on a number of issues related to the domestic and international agenda on plastics.

#### **Departmental Objective**

The objective is to discuss current federal activities related to plastics, potential near-term announcements and other plans. DFO-Coast Guard's focus is on activities that intersect with the Department's core mandate, and more specifically on marine-sourced ocean plastics and ghost fishing gear.

#### **1. Implementation of the Domestic Innovation Challenge**

ISED will update members on the Domestic Innovation Challenge, launched during the G7 Ministerial Meeting in Halifax on September 20, 2018. DFO is leading two challenges aiming to address ocean plastics and ghost gear: 1) sustainable fishing and aquaculture gear; 2) removal and management of ghost fishing gear and marine debris. Coast Guard is collaborating with Transport Canada on a third respecting recycling of glass fibreglass-reinforced plastic used in vessel hulls. CFO Sector has authorized the internal reallocation of \$600k for this fiscal year and \$2M for next fiscal year. TC is funding the third challenge.

#### **Key Points to Register:**

- **DFO-Coast Guard has been working with our Communications team to raise awareness on the challenges through a news release and social media (Twitter, FaceBook and LinkedIn). Social media response and engagement is very high.**

- **Given the relevance to fisheries and aquaculture industries, you may want to communicate about these opportunities and other relevant activities (e.g. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Zero Waste Strategy) at the upcoming Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) meeting.**

## **2. Federal Operations and Procurement Commitment**

TBS and PSPC will provide an update on new commitments announced at the G7 Environment, Oceans and Energy Minister's meeting in September. These commitments include 1) divert at least 75% of plastic waste from federal operations; 2) eliminate the unnecessary use of single-use plastics in government operations, events and meetings; 3) leverage procurement practices to focus on sustainable plastic products. The Centre for Greening Government is also working on federal guidance for the elimination of unnecessary use of single-use plastics in meetings and events, as well as federal guidance for the elimination of unnecessary use of single-use plastics in operations. DFO has been working with the Centre based on lessons learned through DFO-Coast Guard's leadership.

### **Key Points to Register:**

- **DFO-Coast Guard's *Policy to Restrict the Procurement of Unnecessary Single-Use Plastic*, and the associated *Directive to Restrict the Procurement of Unnecessary Single-Use Plastic for Federal Government Meetings, Events and Conferences* is expected to be in place as of January 1, 2019.**
- **As a result of my Minister's commitment to restrict the procurement of unnecessary single-use plastic, DFO-Coast Guard is in a leadership position on this file.**
- **I am proud that my department is at the leading edge of this public service-wide effort.**

## **3. Update on the Domestic Strategy**

### **a) Best Brains exercise and Science Symposium**

Health Canada will provide an update on the Best Brains exercise, and ECCC will provide an update on the Science Symposium. ECCC in collaboration with HC, is organizing a Best Brains Exchange on November 15, 2018, and ECCC will be holding a Science Symposium on November 16, 2018. The purpose of these events is to begin to develop the Canadian science agenda for plastics. DFO employees will attend both events.

### **b) Upcoming CCME Ministers meeting on November 23, 2018**

The CCME Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste will be presented to Ministers of the Environment at the CCME meeting on November 23, 2018. To date, CCFAM has not been engaged in the development of the CCME Strategy.

### **Key Points to Register:**

- **It will be important for DFO-Coast Guard to inform CCFAM of these activities at the upcoming CCFAM meeting. Though not on the agenda, these communities are linked and the work undertaken by both groups of ministers and staff are complementary.**

- Many of the 10 results areas in the Strategy implicate DFO-Coast Guard's mandate. For example, Result Area 7 (Aquatic Activities), Result Area 8 (Research and Monitoring), Result Area 9 (Clean-Up) and Result Area 10 (Global Action).

#### **4. Post G7 International Engagement**

##### **a) DFO update on Canadian participation in the Sustainable Blue Economy and Our Oceans conferences and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative**

You will be asked to provide an update on the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, the Our Oceans Conference and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, was adopted on October 26, 2018. The Action Plan includes objectives on ghost gear as one element of a three-part plan. Moving forward, TC will be coordinating work with DFO and ECCC, as they determine the contribution that Canada will provide to this Action Plan. Interdepartmental meetings will require active participation from DFO to present work that is ongoing with respect to marine litter and ghost gear

##### **Key Points to Register:**

- Canada is co-hosting the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya from November 26-28, 2018. This conference will build on the momentum of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris, to show how economic development and healthy waters go hand in hand.
- Our Oceans Conference took place in Bali, Indonesia on October 29-30, 2018. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, supported by departmental officials, promoted the G7 Plastics Charter in various bilateral discussions, and during the final 'Oceans Leadership Panel'.
- During the Our Ocean Conference, the Parliamentary Secretary met with representatives of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative regarding possible future opportunities for collaboration. This follows Canada's signing on to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative in September 2018, as part of the ongoing commitment to working on finding solutions to reduce the negative impacts of ghost gear.

##### **b) ECCC to update on new signatories to the Ocean Plastics Charter, the International Innovation Challenge, and other G7 follow-up**

At the G7 ministerial that Canada hosted in Halifax, Leaders committed to prioritizing coasts and coastal communities; ocean knowledge related to science and data; sustainable oceans and fisheries; and ocean plastic waste and marine litter. ECCC will update on new signatories to the Charter, the International Innovation Challenge, and other G7 follow-up.

##### **Key Points to Register:**

- In support of Government efforts to increase the participation in the Ocean Plastics Charter, DFO will continue to work with ECCC to identify opportunities for international engagement to promote the charter with key partners.

**c) Roundtable of other departments' international developments**

**Key Points to Register:**

- **DFO-Coast Guard is developing an Ocean Plastics and Ghost Gear Management Framework for Canada, an initiative to raise awareness within fisheries and aquaculture sectors on the importance of minimizing impacts on aquatic environments.**
- **We will work to analyze science, policy and regulatory elements that could form the basis of ghost gear strategy.**